To minimize the use of the chemical pesticides the Government is promoting the integrated pest management (IPM) programme.

Shortage of fodder

4351. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of fodder due to serious drought situation in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to strengthen fodder bank and seed production in these States; and

(c) whether any amount has been released to these States so far, in this regard in the financial year 2002-03; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. There is an overall shortage of fodder in the drought-affected States, including MP. and Chhattisgarh.

(b) Government of India grants the funds to the States for establishment of fooder banks on 75 : 25, Centre : State Share basis. Besides, fodder Minikits under "Central Minikit Testing Programme on Fodder Crops" are allotted to the States for onward supply to the farmers free of cost for fodder and fodder seed production. In addition, 100% Central funds are also provided to the States for enrichment of straw/cellulosic waste.

(c) Government of Chhattisgarh was granted an amount of Rs. 100 lakhs for Enrichment of Straw/Cellulosic Waste during 2002-03. Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh were also allotted fodder minikits 44000 nos. and 7600 nos. respectively during 2002-2003.

Development of bacterial-wilt resistant chilli

4352. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists of the Department of Olericulture of Kerala Agricultural University has developed a bacterial-wilt resistant chilli;

(b) if so, the details of the research; and

(c) by when the commercial production of this variety could be taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.